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Anthem agrees to meet with eligible Kentucky members to explain demutualization plans; public meeting scheduled for 10 a.m., Wed., Sept. 19, at Frankfort's Holiday Inn ballroom

FRANKFORT, KY. - Eligible Anthem members in Kentucky will have a chance to learn more about the Indiana-based company's plan to convert from a mutual insurance company owned by its members to a public company owned by stockholders.

Kentucky Insurance Commissioner Janie A. Miller announced today that Anthem has agreed to meet with eligible Kentucky members to answer questions and explain the company's demutualization proposal. The informational meeting is open to the public on Wednesday, Sept. 19, at 10 a.m. at the Holiday Inn ballroom in Frankfort.

Gov. Paul E. Patton and Secretary Ronald McCloud of the Cabinet for Public Protection & Regulation asked the Department of Insurance to facilitate the public forum to assure that eligible Anthem members are informed about their options.

"My role as Kentucky commissioner is to assure that the Sept. 19 meeting provides Anthem's eligible members in the Commonwealth with the information they need," Commissioner Miller said. "The final action and formal public hearings will be decided by the Indiana Department of Insurance because the company is domiciled in that state."

Anthem is currently mailing details to 1 million statutory members, including about 270,000 members in Kentucky, if they are eligible. The notices will reach eligible Kentuckians as early as this week and as late as the end of August. The notice does not apply to all 7.5 million Anthem customers, but only to specific members entitled to compensation in Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and Connecticut and who are entitled to vote on the plan of conversion.

Anthem's mailing explains the member's options, how to vote, how to get more information and formal notice of the public hearing planned by the Indiana Department of Insurance on Oct. 2, 2001.

On June 18 of this year, the Board of Directors of Anthem Insurance Companies Inc. unanimously adopted a conversion plan and filed its proposal with the Indiana Department of Insurance, asking to convert the Indiana-based company from a mutual insurance company currently owned by its members. In demutualization, the statutory members would be compensated for their membership interests through receipt of stock or cash, and the company would gain access to capital through the public markets.

The plan must be approved by two-thirds of those eligible members who vote. If Anthem receives approval from its eligible members and the Indiana Department of Insurance, the company currently expects to complete the demutualization process by the end of the year.

Additional details can be obtained by calling Anthem's toll-free information lines at 1-866-299-9628 or by logging on to Anthem's Web site at www.Anthem.com.